

WASHED THE TIGER.

The Unconsciously Daring Deed Performed by a Cossack.

When Pezon, the lion-tamer, was at Moscow with his menagerie he had occasion to employ a moujik, a fine specimen of a Cossack, to clean out the cage of the wild beasts. The Cossack did not understand a word of French, and the terms of contract were settled in dumb show.

By way of instructing him in his new duties, Pezon went through a sort of pantomime with the broom, sponge and water-bucket. The moujik watched him closely, and appeared fully to understand the details of the lesson given. Next morning, armed with a broom, a bucket and a sponge, he opened the first cage he came to and quietly stepped in, as he had seen his master step on the previous day into two cages of harmless brutes, but this one happened to be tenanted by a splendid but untamed tiger that lay stretched out on the floor fast asleep.

At the noise made by opening and closing the door the creature raised its head and turned its green eyes full on the man, who all unconsciously of his danger, stood in a corner dipping his big sponge into the bucket. At that moment Pezon came out of the caravan and was struck dumb by the terrible sight that met his gaze. What could he do to warn the man of his danger? A sound, a movement on his part might enrage the great beast and hasten its attack on the defenseless Cossack. So Pezon stood awaiting developments, ready to rush to the scene when the crisis came. The moujik, sponge in hand, coolly approached the tiger and made ready to rub him down with the stolidity of a military bootjack polishing his captain's boots.

The sudden application of cold water to its hide evidently produced a very agreeable effect on the tiger, for it began to purr, stretched out its paws, rolled over on its back and complacently offered every part of its body to the vigorous treatment of the moujik, who went on scrubbing with might and main. All the while Pezon stood there with his eyes wide open, as if nailed to the spot. When he had finished his job the Cossack left the cage as quietly as he had entered it, and it required the most energetic and expressive gestures on the part of the lion-tamer to prevent his repeating the experiment on a second wild beast.—*The Million.*

VICISSITUDES OF A DIAMOND.

The Story of Its Adventures Before it Came to the Austrian Treasury.

The imperial treasury of Austria contains the Florentine diamond. This is one of the finest diamonds in the world, and it is noted for its luster and brilliancy. It is worth \$450,000, and has a romantic history connected with it. It once belonged to Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, who seems to have been rather careless in guarding his treasures.

He went to battle one day with this diamond in his pocket, and the result was that he lost it. The diamond lay on the road, and a Swiss soldier picked it up. He looked upon it as a piece of glass, and threw it down again, but as it fell the sun's rays caught it, and the soldier, thinking it a pretty trinket, concluded to carry it along as a pocket piece. Shortly after this he showed it to a priest. The priest admired it and gave him a coin amounting to about fifty American cents for it. The priest sold it to a jeweler for sixty cents, and a rich merchant paid the jeweler \$2500 for it. The merchant sold it to an Italian Duke for \$10000 advance on his price, and this Duke sold it to one of the Popes, who paid \$60,000 for its possession.

After a number of other similar adventures it came into the possession of a Grand Duke, who married the Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, and through her it came to this imperial treasury. It now belongs to the royal family and has its place in what is considered one of the finest collections in the world.—*Jeweler's Circular.*

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